APPLICANT(S):

ARAZI, Nitzan et al.

SERIAL NO.:

10/077,985

FILED:

February 20, 2002

Page 12

REMARKS

The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of objection and/or rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants assert that the present invention is new, non-obvious and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 1-42 are pending in the application.

Claims 4-8, 10-12, 14-17, 19-21, 24-26, 28, 30-31, 33-34, 36, 38-39, and 41-42 have been amended. Applicants respectfully assert that the amendments to the claims add no new matter.

Claims 1-3, 13, 22, 23, 27, and 35 have been canceled without prejudice. In making this cancellation without prejudice, Applicants reserve all rights in these claims to file divisional and/or continuation patent applications.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that claims 6-11, 15-20, 29-34 and 37-42 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants thank the Examiner for identifying an Allowable Subject Matter.

Claims 10, 19, 33, and 41 have been rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants respectfully assert that this amendment does not narrow the scope of claims 10, 19, 33, and 41. Therefore Applicants respectfully assert that amended claims 10, 19, 33, and 41 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 6-9 and 11 depend, directly or indirectly, from amended claim 10 and incorporate all the elements of this claim. Claims 15-18 and 20 depend, directly or indirectly,

APPLICANT(S): Al

ARAZI, Nitzan et al.

SERIAL NO.:

10/077,985

FILED:

February 20, 2002

Page 13

from amended claim 19 and incorporate all the elements of this claim. Claims 29-32 and 34 depend, directly or indirectly, from amended claim 33 and incorporate all the elements of this claim. Claims 37-40 and 42 depend, directly or indirectly, from amended claim 41 and incorporate all the elements of this claim. Therefore Applicants respectfully assert that claims 6-9, 11, 15-80, 20, 29-32, 34, 37-40 and 42 are in condition for allowance.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 22 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Farwell et al. (EP 0 594 354) in view of Yamauchi et al. (JP 11308153) and further in view of Krasner et al. (US 6,665,541).

Applicants respectfully submit that in view of the cancellation of claims 1, 22 and 23, the rejection of claims 1, 22 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is now moot.

The Examiner rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Farwell et al. (EP 0 594 354) in view of Yamauchi et al. (JP 11308153) as applied to claim 1 above and further in view of Dent (GB 2 337 669).

Applicants respectfully submit that in view of the cancellation of claim 2, the rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is now moot.

The Examiner rejected claims 27-28 and 35-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Farwell et al. (EP 0 594 354) in view of Roundtree (US 6,640,098).

Applicants respectfully submit that in view of the cancellation of claims 27 and 35, the rejection of claims 27 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is now moot.

Amended claim 28 depends directly from amended claim 33 and incorporates all the elements of this claim. Since claim 33 is now believed to be in condition for allowance, as discussed above, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 28 is likewise allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 28.

Amended claim 36 depends directly from amended claim 41 and incorporates all the elements of this claim. Since claim 41 is now believed to be in condition for allowance, as

APPLICANT(S): ARAZI, Nitzan et al.

SERIAL NO.:

10/077,985

FILED:

February 20, 2002

Page 14

discussed above, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 36 is likewise allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 36.

The Examiner rejected claims 3-5, 13, 14, 24, 25 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Farwell et al. (EP 0 594 354) in view of Roundtree (US 6,640,098) and further in view of Krasner et al. (US 6,665,541).

Applicants respectfully submit that in view of the cancellation of claims 3 and 13, the rejection of claims 3 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is now moot.

Amended claims 4, 5, and 25 depend directly from amended claim 10 and incorporate all the elements of this claim. Since claim 10 is now believed to be in condition for allowance, as discussed above, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 4, 5, and 25 are likewise allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 4, 5 and 25.

Amended claims 14, 24, and 26 depend directly from amended claim 19 and incorporate all the elements of this claim. Since claim 19 is now believed to be in condition for allowance, as discussed above, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 14, 24 and 26 are likewise allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 14, 24 and 26.

The Examiner rejected claims 12 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Farwell et al. (EP 0 594 354) in view of Fudge (US 6,205,552), as applied to claims 3 and 13 above, and further in view of Lu et al. (US 6,212,395)

Amended claims 12 and 21 depend directly from amended claims 10 and 19, respectively, and incorporate all the elements of these claims. Since claims 10 and 19 are now believed to be in condition for allowance, as discussed above, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 12 and 21 are likewise allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 12 and 21.

Applicants note that none of the amendments to the claims herein are in response to the above discussed prior art rejections.



APPLICANT(S):

ARAZI, Nitzan et al.

SERIAL NO.:

10/077,985

FILED:

February 20, 2002

Page 15

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the pending claims are deemed to be allowable. Their favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

Please charge any fees associated with this paper to deposit account No. 50-3355.

Respectfully submitted,

Naim Shichrur

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Dated: February 8, 2006

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